



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

OCT 28 1999

The Honorable Ed Pastor
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0302

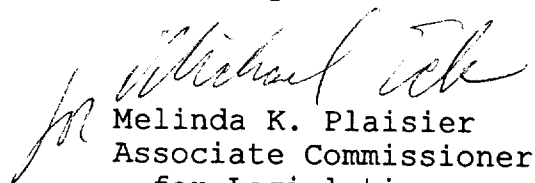
Dear Mr. Pastor:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 1999, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Bill Hickman, Sr. of the Hickman's Egg Ranch in Glendale, Arizona, regarding the Food and Drug Administration's (the Agency) regulatory proposals for Salmonella in eggs. Mr. Hickman opposes the labeling proposal, citing its anticipated economic impact on the industry.

We appreciate your thoughtful comments on our regulatory proposal. We have forwarded your letter and your constituent's letter to the Docket for this matter where it will be considered in the Agency's rulemaking.

Thank you again for your interest in this issue. We trust this information responds to your concerns. If we may be of further assistance, please contact us again.

Sincerely,


Melinda K. Plaisier
Associate Commissioner
for Legislation

cc: Docket Management Branch
(Docket No. 98N-1230)

97P-0197

E
C 780 /ANS

ED PASTOR
GLENDALE, ARIZONA

LEGISLATIVE
1465 HAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0302
202/225-4095

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND WATER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS
OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

September 10, 1999

ED PASTOR
1465 HAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0302
202/225-4095
131 W. 24TH STREET, SUITE 100
PHOENIX, AZ 85064-8846
602/726-2234

Ms. Melinda K. Plaisier
Associate Commissioner for Legislative Affairs
Food and Drug Administration
Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 15-55
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Plaisier:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from Mr. Bill Hickman, Sr., of Glendale, Arizona regarding a matter on which I believe your agency could be helpful. Therefore, the attached communication is submitted for your review.

I would appreciate your response to the points raised in the attached letter, and offer of any assistance available under applicable rules and regulations.

The contact person on my staff for this issue is Eve Young. Should you have any questions, she can be reached at (202) 225-4065.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your attention to this issue and I look forward to receiving word of your action on this matter.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

EP/ey

99-5998

7403 North 91st Avenue
Glendale, Arizona 85305-1206



(602) 872-1120
Fax (602) 872-9220

August 9, 1999

AUG 18 1999

Congressman Ed Pastor
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pastor:

I am writing to you on behalf of the 14 Hickmans who are involved in our family business regarding two regulations currently being considered by the United States Agriculture Department and the Food and Drug Administration. The two regulations relate to the labeling of egg cartons or containers: (keep refrigerated at 45 degrees) and (eggs may contain Salmonella.)

I will tell you that we agree about refrigeration, although, we do not feel it necessary that the consumer needs to be reminded that perishables need to be refrigerated. The regulation labeling (eggs may contain Salmonella) is close to being repulsive to our way of thinking and I think the consuming public will regard such labeling the same way. A known scientific fact is that Salmonella is one of the most prevalent bacteria in the environment in which we live. However, it is also one of the easiest to control by proper food handling and cooking of the foods we consume.

We feel if eggs are singled out as a one source product, it will surely be a financial blow to our industry that many will not survive. The last time publicity and policy preceeded science was during the cholesterol "scare". Only 1% of the producers that started the 70's are still in busines today. Our family and employees provide over 60% of all eggs consumed in Arizona, through our production and distribution. We have been in this business and growing with Arizona since 1944. I hope you will agree egg producers should have some consideration as one of the few sectors of agriculture that isn't the recieipient of any government handouts.

We would appreciate any consideration or help on this matter you might be able to give. If we can provide any information or statistics you might require, please contact myself or our General Manager, Glenn Hickman, at the above listed numbers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Hickman, Sr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Bill Hickman, Sr.

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/C 779

See File Number:

97P-0197/C 780

96P-0418/C 779